

HEART VALVE AND APPARATUS FOR REPLACEMENT THEREOF

Abstract of the Disclosur

Apparatus and methods for replacing a heart valve within a vessel. The apparatus includes a replacement heart valve and a plurality of commissure stabilizers connected to the commissures of the heart valve in a removable manner. The commissure stabilizers position and stabilize the commissures in the proper positions as the replacement heart valve is secured within the vessel. The commissure stabilizers may be removed following securement of the replacement heart valve within the vessel. An expansion or retraction device of the invention assists in properly positioning the valve within the vessel.